



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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April 3, 2007

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WR-5**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**TUJUNGA WASH WATERSHED
GROUNDWATER RECHARGE MASTER PLAN
AWARD CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Award and authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District), or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with RBF Consulting for engineering services to prepare the Tujunga Wash Watershed Groundwater Recharge Master Plan for a not to exceed fee of \$800,000, including \$16,921 for unforeseen work, to be funded by the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Flood Control District budget and to establish the effective contract date following your Board's approval.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On December 5, 2006, your Board authorized the Chief Engineer of the District, or his designee, to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power (DWP). As part of Agreement 47558, the District agreed to develop a Tujunga Watershed Groundwater Recharge Master Plan to address the short- and long-term opportunities to capture, treat, and store local runoff for the purpose of replenishing the San Fernando Basin. The estimated cost of this plan is \$800,000 of which the District and DWP have each agreed to fund \$400,000. Execution of a Consultant Services Agreement with RBF Consulting for the Tujunga Wash

Watershed Groundwater Recharge Master Plan will meet the obligation stated under Agreement 47558.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Awarding this Agreement will meet the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility by allowing Public Works to manage resources in a more efficient and responsible manner. This project will also meet the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Organizational Effectiveness because expertise and experience to perform the required services are not currently available in Public Works.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Funding for these services is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Flood Control District budget with reimbursement of \$400,000 from DWP per executed Agreement 47558.

The recommended Consultant Services Agreement for this project is for a not to exceed fee of \$800,000 for engineering services, including \$16,921 for unforeseen work, which may arise during progress of the work. Additional work within this allowance will not be performed without prior written authorization from the Chief Engineer of the District.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A standard Consultant Services Agreement, in the form previously approved by County Counsel, will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for termination of services, renegotiations, and hiring qualified displaced County employees will be included. The prices are fixed for the entire term of the Consultant Services Agreement, and there are no provisions for any cost of living increases.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the Agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees, and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees, about Board Policy 5.135, the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, and that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

Public Works has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended Agreement as this Agreement is for non-Proposition A services.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration for contract award, RBF Consulting is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence Program/General Relief Opportunity for Work participants for future employment.

RBF Consulting is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program) and Chapter 2.203 (Contractor Employee Jury Service Program).

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The execution of this Agreement is statutorily exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262 of the State CEQA guidelines. Any future project as a result of these services that may be proposed for construction will undergo the appropriate environmental review.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On July 19, 2004, Public Works issued Request for Proposals (RFPs) to develop a select list of engineering consultants. A total of 18 firms responded to the RFPs. An evaluation committee composed of Public Works' staff evaluated the proposals and selected five firms as the best qualified firms on the Select List of Qualified Consultants based on criteria outlined in the RFPs, which included technical expertise, experience, personnel qualifications, and understanding of work requirements. The selection was done without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. The firms selected were Psomas, Camp Dresser and McKee Inc., URS, CH2M Hill, and RBF Consulting. RBF Consulting was selected for this project based on the established ranking from the Select List of Qualified Consultants. The negotiated fees have been reviewed by Public Works and are considered reasonable for the services provided.

Participation by Community Business Enterprises (CBEs) in the project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good faith efforts to utilize CBEs. RBF Consulting is aware of our CBE Outreach Program, and its proposed CBE participation is on file with Public Works.

To ensure the Agreement is awarded to a responsible consultant with a satisfactory performance history, consultants were required to report violations of the False Claims Act, their civil litigation history, and information regarding prior criminal convictions. The information reported by RBF Consulting was considered before making this recommendation to approve execution of the Agreement.

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As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, this contract was listed on the County's "Doing Business with Us" website.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project will have no adverse impact on current services.

CONCLUSION

Please return three adopted copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Department of Public Social Services (GAIN/GROW Program)